CLAIMS

1. Process for preparing compounds having a $CF_nHC(O)$ group from a $CF_nXC(O)$ group and zinc in the presence of an alcohol as a proton source, where n is 1 or 2 and X is bromine, iodine or preferably chlorine, by exchanging X for hydrogen, excluding compounds which are substituted by X both in the α-position and in the β-position.

2. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that compounds having one or more $CF_nHC(O)$ groups are prepared from compounds having one or more $CF_nClC(O)$ groups, where n and X are each as defined in Claim 1.

3. Process according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that an ester of the formula $R^1CFHC(O)OR^2$ is prepared, in which R^1 is F; C1-C5-alkyl; or C1-C5-alkyl which is substituted by at least 1 fluorine atom; and and R^2 is C1-C5-alkyl; or C1-C5-alkyl which is substituted by at least 1 fluorine atom; or in that a diester of the formula $R^3OC(O)CFHC(O)OR^3$ is prepared, in which R^3 is C1-C5-alkyl; or C1-C5-alkyl which is substituted by at least 1 fluorine atom.

4. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that R^1 is F or C1-C3 which is part-fluorinated or perfluorinated.

5. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that R^2 and R^3 are each methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or isopropyl.

6. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that R^1 is F or CF_3.

7. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that the alcohol corresponds to the R^2 or R^3 radical.

8. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that the ester is prepared in situ from acid chloride and alcohol.

9. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reaction product is added as a solvent.

10. The process according to Claim 9, characterized in that the azeotrope of methyl difluoroacetate and methanol, which acts as a solvent and if

appropriate as a proton source, is added in the preparation of methyl difluoroacetate.

11. The azeotrope of methyl difluoroacetate and methanol.